

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claim 1, and leaves claims 4-8 unchanged. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 1 and 4-8.

Support for Amendments

The amendments are fully supported by the disclosure. For example, the amendments to the claims are fully supported by: Fig. 5, items 2 and 21; and paragraph 0041 of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2007/0256416 ("Pre-Grant Publication") of the present application. No new matter is added.

Interview Summary

Applicants thank the Examiner for initiating the interview conducted on February 10, 2011. In the interview, the Examiner proposed amendments for bringing the application into condition for allowance. Specifically, the Examiner proposed amending the claims to recite that the guide tubes 21 protrude into the combustion chamber 2, as shown in Fig. 5. With these changes, the Examiner indicated that the prior art of record would be overcome. However, the Examiner emphasized that further consideration would be required. In this response, Applicants have incorporated the Examiner's recommendations in order to advance prosecution.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claims 1 and 4-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 2,930,192 to Johnson ("Johnson") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,745,558 to Murakami ("Murakami"). This rejection is traversed for the following reasons. Applicants submit that the features of the present invention, as now more clearly recited in claims 1 and 4-7, are not taught or suggested by Johnson or Murakami, whether taken individually or in combination with each other

in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Amendments were made to the claims to more clearly describe features of the present invention. Specifically, amendments were made to the claims to more clearly recite that the present invention is directed to a combustor as recited, for example, in independent claim 1.

For example, the combination of Johnson and Murakami fails to teach or suggest “a second air introduction hole having a guide tube extending from an inner wall of the tubular combustor liner into the combustion chamber” as recited in claim 1.

As shown in Fig. 5, and as described in paragraph 0041 of the Pre-Grant Publication of the present application, the present invention provides where an air introduction hole is provided with guide tubes 21 so as to protrude into the combustion chamber 2 in such a manner that the introduced air can reach the center portion in the diametrical direction of the combustor liner 3. As conceded by the Examiner in the Examiner-Initiated Interview, neither the cited references teaches or suggests this feature.

Therefore, both Johnson and Murakami suffer from the same deficiencies, relative to the features of the present invention, as recited in the claims. Therefore, combining the teachings of Johnson and Murakami in the manner suggested by the Examiner does not render obvious the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 1 and 4-7 as being unpatentable over Johnson in view of Murakami are respectfully requested.

The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the references used in the rejection of claims 1 and 4-7.

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson in view of Murakami, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,850,732 to Willis ("Willis"). Claim 8 is dependent on claim 1 and is allowable for at least the same reasons previously discussed regarding independent claim 1.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 1 and 4-8 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 1 and 4-8 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of BRUNDIDGE & STANGER, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-4888 (referencing Attorney Docket No. ASA-5384).

Respectfully submitted,

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